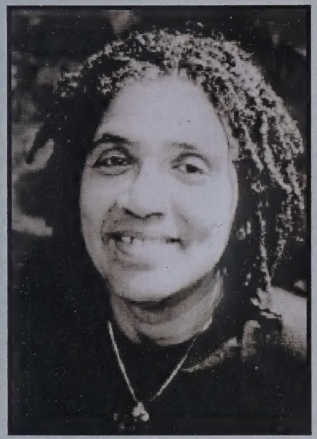
The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

September 29, 2007



Audre Lorde

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. "

~Audre Lorde

ZAMI: A Carriacou word for women who work together as friends and lovers...

The 2007 Audre Lorde Scholarship Donors

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award

Anthony C. Daniels (1965 – 1998), was one of Atlanta's most powerful organizers and activists. Daniels was a founder of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., of ADODI Muse, Inc., and of the Black Lesbian & Gay Poets Society. This scholarship is funded by ADODI Muse, Inc: A Gay Negro Ensemble, the black gay male performance poets' collective. Muse members, **Duncan E. Teague**, **Malik M.L. Williams** and **Anthony Antoine** specifically recognize Daniels' work to build bridges across diverse communities.

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Linda Bryant, co-founder of Charis Books and Charis Circle, has been lovingly involved with ZAMI since its inception. Her formal education is in English from the University of Florida and in theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, but her life lessons come from her years of daily engagement with the wonderfully diverse and committed community she meets at Charis, from her long-term love with Wendy Belkin, and from being a parent and now grandparent. Bryant's desire to serve Spirit with integrity and grace is at the heart of her life.

Sheryl Burke is a Personal Injury Attorney who operates her own law practices based in Georgia and California. Burke, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a graduate of St. Louis University Law School and is a member of the National and Georgia Trial Lawyers' Associations.

Cherie Caldwell is Managing Director, Human Resources at Delta Air Lines, Inc. Caldwell has global responsibility for Talent Acquisition, Retention and Diversity for the fastest growing international passenger airline carrier. She is accountable for building global strategies and implementing programs to optimize the hiring and retention of critical and diverse talent. Caldwell graduated with honors from the University of Maryland where she majored in Human Resources Management. She currently holds a professional SPHR certification and lives in Atlanta.

Sarah Crymes and Rhonda Freeman

Sarah Crymes is a business woman specializing in healthcare administration (MBA/MHSA from University of Michigan). Her passion is building lesbian and feminist communities in Atlanta. She is currently serving as board chair for Charis Circle and previously served as board chair for Fourth Tuesday. **Rhonda Freeman, Ph.D.,** is an engineer who loves all things related to math and science. She also loves her home state of Florida, poodles, swimming and her family. She has been known to have an obsession with puzzles.

Fourth Tuesday is a diverse, non-profit organization serving the LGBT community in Atlanta and the Southeast. It has been dedicated to providing a safe, caring, and welcoming environment for business networking and social events for over 20 years.

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The Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award

Margaret Ntombi Howell (1951-2003) Ntombi as a national spokesperson, transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an advocate and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor. This award is funded by Rhesa Jenkins and Ama Saran. **Rhesa Jenkins** is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to continuous education in community

settings, such as CAU and ANDP's Ford Foundation program in Community Economic Development. **Ama Saran**'s work is best described as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and physical, to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creation of sustainable institutions.

David Gillespie is Vice-President of Talent, Training, and Development for Cengage Learning, a publisher of college textbooks. He graduated with a BBA from Texas A&M University and with a MEd from the University of Georgia. In 1997, Gillespie moved from Dallas to Atlanta, and started his involvement in the fight for equality through work with the Human Rights Campaign. He served on HRC's Board of Governors from 1999 to 2003, and as the chair of the national diversity committee from 2002-2003. In 2000, David began his work with CHRIS Kids, and helped raise money for the creation of the Rainbow Program, a home for runaway LGBTQ teens.

Kerrie Cotten Williams & Brenda S. Banks

Kerrie Cotten Williams is the Archivist for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. She has a range of experience as a researcher and preservation assistant with rare books and manuscripts and has taught university-level courses in U.S. History, African-American History and Expository Writing. Cotten Williams works with individuals and organizations to make certain that their stories are remembered and retold. **Brenda S. Banks** is an independent archives consultant whose current projects include serving as managing archivist for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, project manager for SOLINET's Gulf Coast Academic Library Recovery Project, and senior project archivist for the Audre Lorde Collection at Spelman College. Banks is a graduate of Spelman College where she received a B.A. in history and has a Masters in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in archival management, from Atlanta University.

Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award (1965-2001)

Jerrald Lynn Boswell was a passionate pianist, composer, vocalist, and poet. He was an alumnus of the University of Alabama-Birmingham(UAB) Honors Program where he later taught and edited Honors Program publications. In 2003, UAB expressed appreciation for Jerrald's life and work by establishing the Jerrald Boswell Endowed Support Fund. This Audre Lorde Scholarship is being funded by **Collette Strother, Ada Long, Laura Brooks** and **K.M. Griffin**.

Collette Strother is a 2000 ZAMI scholarship recipient. She received her PhD in gerontology from the University of Kentucky and currently works at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as the project manager on a grant examining health disparities in diabetes and colorectal cancer prevention and management. She was a personal friend of Jerrald Boswell who she says taught her the meaning of loving unconditionally, loving family, and facing life with laughter.

K.M. Griffin is a native of Louisiana, and graduate of Louisiana State University. She has worked over 15 years in the energy and utility industries, where she currently serves as a manager in the area of Legal and Regulatory Compliance. Griffin makes her home in a suburb of Atlanta where she is an advocate for the elderly and works tirelessly on HIV/AIDS issues.

Laura Brooks attended Western Illinois University and has spent the majority of her career in corporate administration. Laura is a self-professed activist for racial justice in her workplace. She was an important player in instituting a Black History Month celebration at the branch of her present company. Laura currently resides in Roanoke, Virginia, and describes herself as a SOUL (Slightly Older Unique Lesbian) with a wickedly good sense of humor.

2007 Donors continued inside

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Amber Andersen, recipient of the Rhonda Freeman-Sarah Crymes Award is in her final year as a communications major at St. Vincent's University in Austin, Texas. Through her work with a gay and lesbian nonprofit seeking to change the perception that Americans are inherently homophobic with a t-shirt campaign, Andersen helped to inform 80 schools last semester about the Fine By Me T-Shirt Project. She's written two unpublished research papers, "The Black Church's Changing Attitudes Towards LGBT People: A Culture of Homophobia" and "Who Do I Have To Blow To Get Some Pussy Around Here?: Sexual Incompatibility in Kissing Jessica Stein". Andersen opted not to major in journalism when she realized she could not be a journalist and openly support gay and lesbian rights. "I could never quench my opinions about gay rights. I could never hide my sexuality to maintain journalistic impartiality. I'm too idealistic and too outspoken about my beliefs."

June Berry, recipient of the Sheryl Burke Award, enrolled in the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts in New York to become a Chef. Her goal is to develop and implement a mobile cooking program for nursing homes and senior centers to provide instruction about the proper foods to eat for prevention and/or the onset of diseases. She also wants to build linkages with doctors, hospitals and clinics to provide education about diet and menu planning to individuals dealing with diseases such as high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes and HIV/ AIDS. Berry says, "My success does not need to be measured by large numbers of people but by those closest to me. My mother and grandmother both lost their battles to cancer and my success at sharing knowledge of healthy eating will be reflected in the meals at my family gatherings as well as the ways my family support those members who are ill or diagnosed with diseases."

Sophia Bowens, the recipient of the Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotten Williams Award is in a hurry to change the world. At 22 years of age, Bowens has been "out" and fighting injustice since she was fourteen years old. "I created the GLSA(Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance) in high school because I witnessed so many hurtful stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudices, and I wanted to build a bridge to bring people together." Her actions led to a revision in the school's code of conduct prohibiting discrimination based on sex, race, or sexual orientation. As a junior at Texas Woman's University, Bowen is preparing for a career as a school psychologist because she knows firsthand that many youth reared in violent and traumatic homes often suffer low self- esteem, and a lack of determination. "I want my life to be an example of achievement; I'm the first to overcome poverty in my family, the first to finish high school and will become the first college graduate."

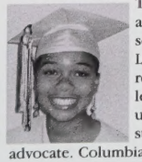
Ejeris Dixon, recipient of the Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award is in her second year of a Masters program at New York University focusing on Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy. For the last eight years Dixon has been involved with social and economic justice activism and organizing around LGBTQ people of color issues. "Being out to me is about forging solidarity within LGBTQ communities of color across different gender expressions, levels of public expression (i.e. outness), race, age, and class. It's about no longer rationalizing violence away but finding ways to support each other without fear, blame, or shame. Avoiding this work has devastating consequences. Every single time we choose to believe that those who were killed were too blatant, and too flamboyant we voluntarily step further and further away from our own liberation."

As a self-identified lifelong student of learning, **Melissa Gordon**, recipient of the Fourth Tuesday Award entered graduate school this fall at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work. Her primary goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker focusing on youth development. Gordon maintains that many therapists are still attempting to re-program gay youth and failing to address the needs of adolescent African Americans. She says her drive to create a residential facility for gay youth in state custody is fueled by the insensitivity she received from professionals as an adolescent battling homophobia and suicidal ideation. While working in diverse communities whether tutoring youth, registering voters, counseling battered women, conducting grassroots fundraising, facilitating groups, or providing financial assistance to the uninsured and underinsured, Gordon says, "I am out despite homophobia in America. I am out despite the African American tradition of suppressing homosexuality under black consciousness. I do not and will not choose one identity. At 27, I have journeyed too far to be uncomfortable in my own skin to be closeted. Being out is not a choice; it is a necessity to live a healthy, honest, and open life."

Crystal A. Jones, a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts in Boston is the recipient of the Cherie Caldwell Award. Jones who will receive her MBA in 2008 is specializing in human resource management and information systems. Growing up in a very religious, Southern Baptist family in Georgia, she learned early on that education would be the prize of her ticket. She knew well before her teens that she was lesbian, but chose to stay in the closet while succeeding academically and climbing up the ladder at several Fortune 500 companies. And although Jones was reaching some professional and educational goals she had set for herself, she was not very happy hiding who she was. "As time passed and I became more confident in myself, I felt compelled to live freely. Being "out" now is a very important aspect of my life. People from all walks of my life, family, church members, co-workers, teachers, and fellow students now know that I am gay." Jones is involved with QUEER Women of Color and Friends and the Mautner Health Project which is a support organization for lesbians with cancer. Her goal is to become a successful business professor and entrepreneur enabling her to give back some of the abundance that has been given to her.

Kalvin Leveille, a recipient of the Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award is a senior studying Communication Arts at St. John's University in Queens, NY. While not in school, he spends many hours conducting outreach throughout New York City targeting teens at risk by distributing condoms and facilitating health workshops. Leveille is involved with Manhattan's Pridefest and is also a member of HEAT (Health Education & Alternatives for Teens) Program's Youth Advisory Board serving as a representative for gay young men throughout the program. He exclaims that working with the staff at HEAT taught him a new found love for himself. "I tried to substitute the love I never received from my father with the affection I perceived as love, from a boyfriend. I do not want a relationship to define my love for myself. I want to define the strength of the relationships in my life through positive self love and what I can offer"

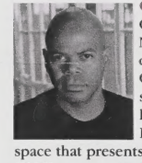
Naima Lowe is the recipient of the Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award funded by Rhesa M. Jenkins & Ama Saran. She is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at Temple University in Philadelphia with a focus on Film and Media Arts. Lowe who comes from a long line of professors, musicians, elementary school teachers, painters, actors and Sunday school teachers loves teaching, and making art. She is a writing instructor for PHAT CAMP, a Youth Empowerment Organization focused on body image, anti-racism, anti-sexism and anti-homophobia and serves as Curator for BEYOND BEYOND, Arts Programming for the National LGBTI Health Summit. Lowe credits the support of LGBT and feminist writers for giving her the confidence needed as an artist. She is currently working on a multi-media installation about a 19th century black cowboy named Stagecoach Mary where she is exploring race, gender, and sexuality. "Being out not only to my family, but to the community at large, has given me artistic opportunities and a sense of voice beyond what I could have had by trying to hide that aspect of my identity."



Teanna Medina, the recipient of the Linda Bryant Award attends the University of Missouri- Columbia where she is a sophomore English major. John Faughn, Coordinator of the LGBT Resource Center at the University writes in his recommendation letter, " Ms. Medina is a true emerging leader within the LGBT community. She seeks first to understand, then to be understood. She reaches out to students, is a mentor to her peers, and is a true social justice advocate. Columbia Missouri is not an easy campus for a student to identify as a member of the LGBT community, much more as a woman of color who identifies as a member of the LGBT community.´" Medina has created bulletin boards on Transgender, Latino/a and African- Americans who identify as LGBT and facilitated InsideOut, a weekly LGBT discussion group. She has also been active in programming for Pride Month, Pride Prom and panel discussions. Medina asserts, "I have been out since the age of fourteen and I am proud of my identity whether anyone else accepts it or not."

Mark Norris is the recipient of the Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award funded by Collette Strother, Laura Brooks, Ada Long and K.M. Griffin. A sophomore at California State University in Los Angeles, Norris is pursuing a Social Work degree with a Gerontology specialization. He has a long list of awards for his community work and currently volunteers his services for Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Center as a Case Manager Assistant, helped to establish MYTE (Mentoring Youth through Empowerment Program), is a Program Assistant with APT-AIDS Prevention Team, volunteer hours with the Mary McCloud Bethune School for Homeless Children and works the phones for Gay AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) Help Line. Norris is eager to obtain his degree so that he can develop programming for two groups that are dear to his heart: gay seniors and troubled youth who are homeless and caught up in a web of addiction. "Being out is important because every young lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender kid growing up should have someone positive in our community to pattern their life after and identify with. I truly believe I am here to help someone who has gone through some or all of the same things I have gone through. That is my sole desire."

Pam Reed, the recipient of the Angelina Huguely Award, is a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in liberal arts and women studies. In addition to her work as co-founder and active member of Spectrum, an LGBT organization and the Feminist group, Reclaiming Eve, Reed and her partner of ten years are also raising a teenage daughter. "I'm teaching my daughter not to accept unequal treatment from anyone. Being 'out' and being honest about who I am everywhere I go is the best lesson for my daughter." She hopes to use her education to teach in a University setting as a Professor in Gay and Lesbian Studies. Reed believes she can make a difference in the lives of gay and lesbian youth. "Working within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community will allow me the opportunity to educate and be a mentor to those in need."



Charles Rice-Gonzalez, recipient of the Tony Daniels Community Ally Award funded by ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble is working toward a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing with a concentration in fiction at Goddard College in Vermont. Since 1986, he has actively created supportive environments for queerness in the Bronx by helping to found Queer Men of the Bronx, and BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, a 70 seat performance space that presents empowering works for/by women, people of color and the LGBT community, finished a coming out novel, had a workshop production of his play that deals with race and desire and will soon have his first short story published in a Puerto Rican anthology. Rice-Gonzalez says, "Being gay to me is not only about subverting from the norm, it is also about expansion from the norm. My gayness is integrated into what I do, what I create and what I want to keep doing throughout my life. I want to continue giving to the development and empowerment of a strong gay community that is part of the larger world."

Brandee Stephens, recipient of the Wendy Belkin Award, is a senior Sociology major and Psychology minor at the University of North Carolina- Charlotte. "Kool-Aid" as she is affectionately known on campus is an active member of UNC Charlotte's P.R.I.D.E (People Recognizing Individual Differences and Equality) organization whose purpose is to provide education and awareness about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. She also works as a SAFE Counselor providing mentoring to incoming freshman and received the 2005-2006 awards for SAFE Counselor of the year. Stephens says that embracing her sexual orientation has been a struggle but it has impacted her life in a very positive way. She quotes Barack Obama "Making your mark on the world is hard. If it were easy, everybody would do it. But it's not. It takes patience, it takes commitment, and it comes with plenty of failure along the way. The real test is not whether you avoid this failure, because you won't. It's whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you choose to persevere."

Craig Washington, the recipient of the David Gillespie Award, will receive his Master of Social Work from Georgia State University in 2008. While continuing to work full-time as a volunteer and training coordinator at Positive Impact, an agency providing mental health and prevention services for people affected by HIV, he remains involved in many social justice activities, too numerous to mention. Washington says "It is my goal to help establish a series of cultural arts community centers in the South that primarily serve Black queer communities. I would like to work with activists, performing artists, health providers, community leaders and elected officials to build and sustain centers for the empowerment of Black lgbtqiq people and our allies. These centers would provide services and activities such as training on job skills, film, literature and performance art programs; conflict resolution for organizations; leadership development; youth support; as well as recreational activities for various generations. Our communities suffer sorely from disconnection, isolation and the cumulative effects of unhealed internalized oppressions. As a social worker and a writer I will help develop services and create art that addresses our needs in some ways both innovative and traditional."

2007 Donors continued

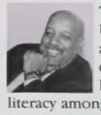
Ada Long is an emeritus professor of English and, from 1983 to 2004, was founding director of the university-wide honors program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her finest creation was the UAB Honors Program, which proved that students from all backgrounds, ages, races, interests, politics, and religions can learn, teach, and thrive together. In July of 2004, she retired to an island off the Florida panhandle, which—except for all the water—is just like Alabama.

Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award

Mandy Carter, a self-described southern out black lesbian social justice activist, has worked in multi-racial, multi-issue grassroots organizing for the last 39 years. In 1993, she co-founded Southerners On New Ground whose purpose is to build a progressive movement across the South by developing transformative models of organizing that connect race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality identity. Carter was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee as part of the "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" to recognize, make visible and celebrate the impressive and valuable, yet often invisible peace work of thousands of women around the world. She lives in Durham, North Carolina. This award is funded by **Germaine Curtin**, owner of Germaine Curtin & Associates, Attorneys at Law—a practice limited to business matters. She is admitted to practice before the New York, California, North Carolina and Georgia Bars. Ms. Curtin received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Albany and her J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sandra Jones & Ronald Moore

Sandra B. Jones, Ph.D. is from Houston, Texas. Her professional career has been national and international. She provided clinical practice in pediatrics at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, Texas; academic teaching at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; research at the Colorado Sickle Cell Research and Treatment Center; and international work in Japan and Kuwait University. She is currently at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention managing cooperative agreements with departments of education at the state and local level implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in schools. Her passion is health literacy among children and adolescents. **Ronald Moore** recently retired from Hewlett Packard after 26 years in a myriad of roles focused mostly in human resources. He presently works with the Kimberly-Clark Company as its Diversity and Inclusion Director. Moore has been involved in various Metro Atlanta organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Medical Center, and Project Open Hand (serving meals to people living with HIV / critical illnesses). A native of Detroit, Michigan, Ronald received a B.A. - Communications, an M.A. - Counseling, and a M.A. - Labor and Industrial Relations—all from Michigan State University. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



Congratulations to our Community Award recipients: Mia Mingus, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Mandy Carter and the Feminist Women's Health Center.

ZAMI Mission Statement

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of African descent through providing scholarship funds, leadership development, support/discussion groups, social activities, outreach and education.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

The scholarship fund is the brainchild of ZAMI's current Board Chair, Mary Anne Adams. The first two scholarships were awarded in 1997 to Wendi O'Neal from Spelman College and Akeya Works from Georgia State University.

Since that time, we have awarded over $114,000 in scholarship money to "out" lesbians and gay men of color, nation–wide who are making significant contributions to their communities.

ZAMI Board Members

Board Chair: Mary Anne Adams, MSW

Members:

Aisha Dubose
Latania McKenzie
Arlene Edwards, Ph.D
Simone Bell
Beryl Jackson
Frances Wood
Lynn Duhart
Edith Biggers, MD
Miya Binta

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Cherie Caldwell
Sharon Bridgforth
Isa Williams
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Saralynn Chestnut
Elizabeth Elkins
Africa & Genesis Cultural & Educational Products
Sara Look

Much love and appreciation to our featured Artists:
Dr. Clarice Thompson, Drum Sista, Lillie Huddleston, ADODI Muse

Producer, Mary Anne Adams of Madam Productions

Visit www.zami.org for more information on our scholars, donors, and upcoming events.

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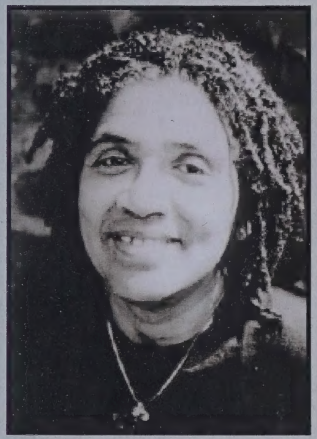

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The Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award
Margaret Ntombi Howell (1951-2003) Ntombi as a national spokesperson, transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an advocate and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor. This award is funded by Rhesa Jenkins and Ama Saran. **Rhesa Jenkins** is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to continuous education in community

settings, such as CAU and ANDP's Ford Foundation program in Community Economic Development. **Ama Saran's** work is best described as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and physical, to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creation of sustainable institutions.

David Gillespie is Vice-President of Talent, Training, and Development for Cengage Learning, a publisher of college textbooks. He graduated with a BBA from Texas A&M University and with a MEd from the University of Georgia. In 1997, Gillespie moved from Dallas to Atlanta, and started his involvement in the fight for equality through work with the Human Rights Campaign. He served on HRC's Board of Governors from 1999 to 2003, and as the chair of the national diversity committee from 2002-2003. In 2000, David began his work with CHRIS Kids, and helped raise money for the creation of the Rainbow Program, a home for runaway LGBTQ teens.

Kerrie Cotten Williams & Brenda S. Banks

Kerrie Cotten Williams is the Archivist for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. She has a range of experience as a researcher and preservation assistant with rare books and manuscripts and has taught university-level courses in U.S. History, African-American History and Expository Writing. Cotten Williams works with individuals and organizations to make certain that their stories are remembered and retold. **Brenda S. Banks** is an independent archives consultant whose current projects include serving as managing archivist for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, project manager for SOLINET's Gulf Coast Academic Library Recovery Project, and senior project archivist for the Audre Lorde Collection at Spelman College. Banks is a graduate of Spelman College where she received a B.A. in history and has a Masters in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in archival management, from Atlanta University.

Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award (1965-2001)

Jerrald Lynn Boswell was a passionate pianist, composer, vocalist, and poet. He was an alumnus of the University of Alabama-Birmingham(UAB) Honors Program where he later taught and edited Honors Program publications. In 2003, UAB expressed appreciation for Jerrald's life and work by establishing the Jerrald Boswell Endowed Support Fund. This Audre Lorde Scholarship is being funded by **Collette Strother, Ada Long, Laura Brooks** and **K.M. Griffin.**

Collette Strother is a 2000 ZAMI scholarship recipient. She received her PhD in gerontology from the University of Kentucky and currently works at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as the project manager on a grant examining health disparities in diabetes and colorectal cancer prevention and management. She was a personal friend of Jerrald Boswell who she says taught her the meaning of loving unconditionally, loving family, and facing life with laughter.

K.M. Griffin is a native of Louisiana, and graduate of Louisiana State University. She has worked over 15 years in the energy and utility industries, where she currently serves as a manager in the area of Legal and Regulatory Compliance. Griffin makes her home in a suburb of Atlanta where she is an advocate for the elderly and works tirelessly on HIV/AIDS issues.

Laura Brooks attended Western Illinois University and has spent the majority of her career in corporate administration. Laura is a self-professed activist for racial justice in her workplace. She was an important player in instituting a Black History Month celebration at the branch of her present company. Laura currently resides in Roanoke, Virginia, and describes herself as a SOUL (Slightly Older Unique Lesbian) with a wickedly good sense of humor.

2007 Donors continued inside

The 2007 Audre Lorde Scholarship Donors

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award

Anthony C. Daniels (1965 – 1998), was one of Atlanta's most powerful organizers and activists. Daniels was a founder of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., of ADODI Muse, Inc., and of the Black Lesbian & Gay Poets Society. This scholarship is funded by ADODI Muse, Inc: A Gay Negro Ensemble, the black gay male performance poets' collective. Muse members, **Duncan E. Teague**, **Malik M.L. Williams** and **Anthony Antoine** specifically recognize Daniels' work to build bridges across diverse communities.

Wendy Belkin was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She took her last accounting final in August, 1979, got in her car, and drove to Atlanta. She has been here ever since. Belkin practices law and accounting in her own small practice in Decatur and has been a long supporter of Charis Books, Charis Circle and ZAMI. She is an amateur astronomer and photographer.

Linda Bryant, co-founder of Charis Books and Charis Circle, has been lovingly involved with ZAMI since its inception. Her formal education is in English from the University of Florida and in theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, but her life lessons come from her years of daily engagement with the wonderfully diverse and committed community she meets at Charis, from her long-term love with Wendy Belkin, and from being a parent and now grandparent. Bryant's desire to serve Spirit with integrity and grace is at the heart of her life.

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The 2007 Audre Lorde Scholars

Amber Andersen, recipient of the Rhonda Freeman-Sarah Crymes Award is in her final year as a communications major at St. Vincent's University in Austin, Texas. Through her work with a gay and lesbian nonprofit seeking to change the perception that Americans are inherently homophobic with a t-shirt campaign, Andersen helped to inform 80 schools last semester about the Fine By Me T-Shirt Project. She's written two unpublished research papers, "The Black Church's Changing Attitudes Towards LGBT People: A Culture of Homophobia" and "Who Do I Have To Blow To Get Some Pussy Around Here?: Sexual Incompatibility in Kissing Jessica Stein". Andersen opted not to major in journalism when she realized she could not be a journalist and openly support gay and lesbian rights. "I could never quench my opinions about gay rights. I could never hide my sexuality to maintain journalistic impartiality. I'm too idealistic and too outspoken about my beliefs."

June Berry, recipient of the Sheryl Burke Award, enrolled in the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts in New York to become a Chef. Her goal is to develop and implement a mobile cooking program for nursing homes and senior centers to provide instruction about the proper foods to eat for prevention and/or the onset of diseases. She also wants to build linkages with doctors, hospitals and clinics to provide education about diet and menu planning to individuals dealing with diseases such as high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes and HIV/ AIDS. Berry says, "My success does not need to be measured by large numbers of people but by those closest to me. My mother and grandmother both lost their battles to cancer and my success at sharing knowledge of healthy eating will be reflected in the meals at my family gatherings as well as the ways my family support those members who are ill or diagnosed with diseases."

Sophia Bowens, the recipient of the Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotten Williams Award is in a hurry to change the world. At 22 years of age, Bowens has been "out" and fighting injustice since she was fourteen years old. "I created the GLSA(Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance) in high school because I witnessed so many hurtful stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudices, and I wanted to build a bridge to bring people together." Her actions led to a revision in the school's code of conduct prohibiting discrimination based on sex, race, or sexual orientation. As a junior at Texas Woman's University, Bowen is preparing for a career as a school psychologist because she knows firsthand that many youth reared in violent and traumatic homes often suffer low self- esteem, and a lack of determination. "I want my life to be an example of achievement; I'm the first to overcome poverty in my family, the first to finish high school and will become the first college graduate."

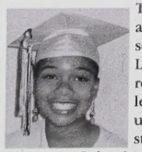
Ejeris Dixon, recipient of the Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award is in her second year of a Masters program at New York University focusing on Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy. For the last eight years Dixon has been involved with social and economic justice activism and organizing around LGBTQ people of color issues. "Being out to me is about forging solidarity within LGBTQ communities of color across different gender expressions, levels of public expression (i.e. outness), race, age, and class. It's about no longer rationalizing violence away but finding ways to support each other without fear, blame, or shame. Avoiding this work has devastating consequences. Every single time we choose to believe that those who were killed were too blatant, and too flamboyant we voluntarily step further and further away from our own liberation."

As a self-identified lifelong student of learning, **Melissa Gordon**, recipient of the Fourth Tuesday Award entered graduate school this fall at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work. Her primary goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker focusing on youth development. Gordon maintains that many therapists are still attempting to re-program gay youth and failing to address the needs of adolescent African Americans. She says her drive to create a residential facility for gay youth in state custody is fueled by the insensitivity she received from professionals as an adolescent battling homophobia and suicidal ideation. While working in diverse communities whether tutoring youth, registering voters, counseling battered women, conducting grassroots fundraising, facilitating groups, or providing financial assistance to the uninsured and underinsured, Gordon says, "I am out despite homophobia in America. I am out despite the African American tradition of suppressing homosexuality under black consciousness. I do not and will not choose one identity. At 27, I have journeyed too far to be uncomfortable in my own skin to be closeted. Being out is not a choice; it is a necessity to live a healthy, honest, and open life."

Crystal A. Jones, a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts in Boston is the recipient of the Cherie Caldwell Award. Jones who will receive her MBA in 2008 is specializing in human resource management and information systems. Growing up in a very religious, Southern Baptist family in Georgia, she learned early on that education would be the prize of her ticket. She knew well before her teens that she was lesbian, but chose to stay in the closet while succeeding academically and climbing up the ladder at several Fortune 500 companies. And although Jones was reaching some professional and educational goals she had set for herself, she was not very happy hiding who she was. "As time passed and I became more confident in myself, I felt compelled to live freely. Being "out" now is a very important aspect of my life. People from all walks of my life, family, church members, co-workers, teachers, and fellow students now know that I am gay." Jones is involved with QUEER Women of Color and Friends and the Mautner Health Project which is a support organization for lesbians with cancer. Her goal is to become a successful business professor and entrepreneur enabling her to give back some of the abundance that has been given to her.

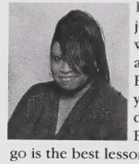
Kalvin Leveille, a recipient of the Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award is a senior studying Communication Arts at St. John's University in Queens, NY. While not in school, he spends many hours conducting outreach throughout New York City targeting teens at risk by distributing condoms and facilitating health workshops. Leveille is involved with Manhattan's Pridefest and is also a member of HEAT (Health Education & Alternatives for Teens) Program's Youth Advisory Board serving as a representative for gay young men throughout the program. He exclaims that working with the staff at HEAT taught him a new found love for himself. "I tried to substitute the love I never received from my father with the affection I perceived as love, from a boyfriend. I do not want a relationship to define my love for myself. I want to define the strength of the relationships in my life through positive self love and what I can offer"

Naima Lowe is the recipient of the Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award funded by Rhesa M. Jenkins & Ama Saran. She is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at Temple University in Philadelphia with a focus on Film and Media Arts. Lowe who comes from a long line of professors, musicians, elementary school teachers, painters, actors and Sunday school teachers loves teaching, and making art. She is a writing instructor for PHAT CAMP, a Youth Empowerment Organization focused on body image, anti-racism, anti-sexism and anti-homophobia and serves as Curator for BEYOND BEYOND, Arts Programming for the National LGBTI Health Summit. Lowe credits the support of LGBT and feminist writers for giving her the confidence needed as an artist. She is currently working on a multi-media installation about a 19th century black cowboy named Stagecoach Mary where she is exploring race, gender, and sexuality. "Being out not only to my family, but to the community at large, has given me artistic opportunities and a sense of voice beyond what I could have had by trying to hide that aspect of my identity."

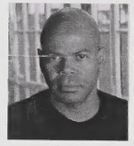


Teanna Medina, the recipient of the Linda Bryant Award attends the University of Missouri- Columbia where she is a sophomore English major. John Faughn, Coordinator of the LGBT Resource Center at the University writes in his recommendation letter, " Ms. Medina is a true emerging leader within the LGBT community. She seeks first to understand, then to be understood. She reaches out to students, is a mentor to her peers, and is a true social justice advocate. Columbia Missouri is not an easy campus for a student to identify as a member of the LGBT community, much more as a woman of color who identifies as a member of the LGBT community.´" Medina has created bulletin boards on Transgender, Latino/a and African- Americans who identify as LGBT and facilitated InsideOut, a weekly LGBT discussion group. She has also been active in programming for Pride Month, Pride Prom and panel discussions. Medina asserts, "I have been out since the age of fourteen and I am proud of my identity whether anyone else accepts it or not."

Mark Norris is the recipient of the Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award funded by Collette Strother, Laura Brooks, Ada Long and K.M. Griffin. A sophomore at California State University in Los Angeles, Norris is pursuing a Social Work degree with a Gerontology specialization. He has a long list of awards for his community work and currently volunteers his services for Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Center as a Case Manager Assistant, helped to establish MYTE (Mentoring Youth through Empowerment Program), is a Program Assistant with APT-AIDS Prevention Team, volunteer hours with the Mary McCloud Bethune School for Homeless Children and works the phones for Gay AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) Help Line. Norris is eager to obtain his degree so that he can develop programming for two groups that are dear to his heart: gay seniors and troubled youth who are homeless and caught up in a web of addiction. "Being out is important because every young lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender kid growing up should have someone positive in our community to pattern their life after and identify with. I truly believe I am here to help someone who has gone through some or all of the same things I have gone through. That is my sole desire."

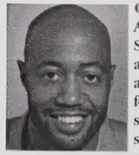


Pam Reed, the recipient of the Angelina Huguely Award, is a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in liberal arts and women studies. In addition to her work as co-founder and active member of Spectrum, an LGBT organization and the Feminist group, Reclaiming Eve, Reed and her partner of ten years are also raising a teenage daughter. "I'm teaching my daughter not to accept unequal treatment from anyone. Being 'out' and being honest about who I am everywhere I go is the best lesson for my daughter." She hopes to use her education to teach in a University setting as a Professor in Gay and Lesbian Studies. Reed believes she can make a difference in the lives of gay and lesbian youth. "Working within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community will allow me the opportunity to educate and be a mentor to those in need."



Charles Rice-Gonzalez, recipient of the Tony Daniels Community Ally Award funded by ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble is working toward a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing with a concentration in fiction at Goddard College in Vermont. Since 1986, he has actively created supportive environments for queerness in the Bronx by helping to found Queer Men of the Bronx, and BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, a 70 seat performance space that presents empowering works for/by women, people of color and the LGBT community, finished a coming out novel, had a workshop production of his play that deals with race and desire and will soon have his first short story published in a Puerto Rican anthology. Rice-Gonzalez says, "Being gay to me is not only about subverting from the norm, it is also about expansion from the norm. My gayness is integrated into what I do, what I create and what I want to keep doing throughout my life. I want to continue giving to the development and empowerment of a strong gay community that is part of the larger world."

Brandee Stephens, recipient of the Wendy Belkin Award, is a senior Sociology major and Psychology minor at the University of North Carolina- Charlotte. "Kool-Aid" as she is affectionately known on campus is an active member of UNC Charlotte's P.R.I.D.E (People Recognizing Individual Differences and Equality) organization whose purpose is to provide education and awareness about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. She also works as a SAFE Counselor providing mentoring to incoming freshman and received the 2005-2006 awards for SAFE Counselor of the year. Stephens says that embracing her sexual orientation has been a struggle but it has impacted her life in a very positive way. She quotes Barack Obama "Making your mark on the world is hard. If it were easy, everybody would do it. But it's not. It takes patience, it takes commitment, and it comes with plenty of failure along the way. The real test is not whether you avoid this failure, because you won't. It's whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you choose to persevere."



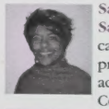
Craig Washington, the recipient of the David Gillespie Award, will receive his Master of Social Work from Georgia State University in 2008. While continuing to work full-time as a volunteer and training coordinator at Positive Impact, an agency providing mental health and prevention services for people affected by HIV, he remains involved in many social justice activities, too numerous to mention. Washington says "It is my goal to help establish a series of cultural arts community centers in the South that primarily serve Black queer communities. I would like to work with activists, performing artists, health providers, community leaders and elected officials to build and sustain centers for the empowerment of Black lgbtqiq people and our allies. These centers would provide services and activities such as training on job skills, film, literature and performance art programs; conflict resolution for organizations; leadership development; youth support; as well as recreational activities for various generations. Our communities suffer sorely from disconnection, isolation and the cumulative effects of unhealed internalized oppressions. As a social worker and a writer I will help develop services and create art that addresses our needs in some ways both innovative and traditional."

2007 Donors continued

Ada Long is an emeritus professor of English and, from 1983 to 2004, was founding director of the university-wide honors program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her finest creation was the UAB Honors Program, which proved that students from all backgrounds, ages, races, interests, politics, and religions can learn, teach, and thrive together. In July of 2004, she retired to an island off the Florida panhandle, which—except for all the water—is just like Alabama.

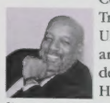
Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award

Mandy Carter, a self-described southern out black lesbian social justice activist, has worked in multi-racial, multi-issue grassroots organizing for the last 39 years. In 1993, she co-founded Southerners On New Ground whose purpose is to build a progressive movement across the South by developing transformative models of organizing that connect race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality identity. Carter was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee as part of the "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" to recognize, make visible and celebrate the impressive and valuable, yet often invisible peace work of thousands of women around the world. She lives in Durham, North Carolina. This award is funded by Germaine Curtin, owner of Germaine Curtin & Associates, Attorneys at Law—a practice limited to business matters. She is admitted to practice before the New York, California, North Carolina and Georgia Bars. Ms. Curtin received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Albany and her J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



Sandra Jones & Ronald Moore

Sandra B. Jones, Ph.D. is from Houston, Texas. Her professional career has been national and international. She provided clinical practice in pediatrics at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, Texas; academic teaching at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; research at the Colorado Sickle Cell Research and Treatment Center; and international work in Japan and Kuwait University. She is currently at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention managing cooperative agreements with departments of education at the state and local level implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in schools. Her passion is health literacy among children and adolescents. **Ronald Moore** recently retired from Hewlett Packard after 26 years in a myriad of roles focused mostly in human resources. He presently works with the Kimberly-Clark Company as its Diversity and Inclusion Director. Moore has been involved in various Metro Atlanta organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Medical Center, and Project Open Hand (serving meals to people living with HIV / critical illnesses). A native of Detroit, Michigan, Ronald received a B.A. - Communications, an M.A. - Counseling, and a M.A. - Labor and Industrial Relations—all from Michigan State University. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia.



Congratulations to our Community Award recipients: Mia Mingus, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Mandy Carter and the Feminist Women's Health Center.

ZAMI Mission Statement

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of African descent through providing scholarship funds, leadership development, support/discussion groups, social activities, outreach and education.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

The scholarship fund is the brainchild of ZAMI's current Board Chair, Mary Anne Adams. The first two scholarships were awarded in 1997 to Wendi O'Neal from Spelman College and Akeya Works from Georgia State University.

Since that time, we have awarded over $114,000 in scholarship money to "out" lesbians and gay men of color, nation–wide who are making significant contributions to their communities.

ZAMI Board Members

Board Chair: Mary Anne Adams, MSW

Members:

Aisha Dubose
Latania McKenzie
Arlene Edwards, Ph.D
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Beryl Jackson
Frances Wood
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Cherie Caldwell
Sharon Bridgforth
Isa Williams
Teresa Joyce
Saralynn Chestnut
Elizabeth Elkins
Africa & Genesis Cultural & Educational Products
Sara Look

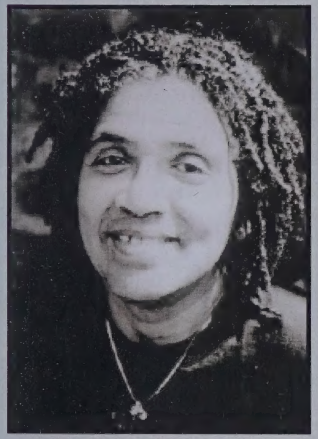
Much love and appreciation to our featured Artists:
Dr. Clarice Thompson, Drum Sista, Lillie Huddleston, ADODI Muse

Producer, Mary Anne Adams of Madam Productions

Visit www.zami.org for more information on our scholars, donors, and upcoming events.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

September 29, 2007



Audre Lorde

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. "

~Audre Lorde

ZAMI: A Carriacou word for women who work together as friends and lovers...

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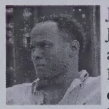
Margaret Ntombi Howell (1951-2003) Ntombi as a national spokesperson, transformed the concept of recovery into a universal human experience for all people. She was an advocate and activist for the rights of women, people of color and the poor. This award is funded by Rhesa Jenkins and Ama Saran. **Rhesa Jenkins** is a Stanford educated scientist with a commitment to continuous education in community

settings, such as CAU and ANDP's Ford Foundation program in Community Economic Development. **Ama Saran's** work is best described as a social ministry that teaches the importance of researching community health, mental and physical, to support the efforts of non-profit organizations in creation of sustainable institutions.

David Gillespie is Vice-President of Talent, Training, and Development for Cengage Learning, a publisher of college textbooks. He graduated with a BBA from Texas A&M University and with a MEd from the University of Georgia. In 1997, Gillespie moved from Dallas to Atlanta, and started his involvement in the fight for equality through work with the Human Rights Campaign. He served on HRC's Board of Governors from 1999 to 2003, and as the chair of the national diversity committee from 2002-2003. In 2000, David began his work with CHRIS Kids, and helped raise money for the creation of the Rainbow Program, a home for runaway LGBTQ teens.

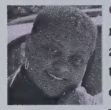
Kerrie Cotten Williams & Brenda S. Banks

Kerrie Cotten Williams is the Archivist for the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History. She has a range of experience as a researcher and preservation assistant with rare books and manuscripts and has taught university-level courses in U.S. History, African-American History and Expository Writing. Cotten Williams works with individuals and organizations to make certain that their stories are remembered and retold. **Brenda S. Banks** is an independent archives consultant whose current projects include serving as managing archivist for the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, project manager for SOLINET's Gulf Coast Academic Library Recovery Project, and senior project archivist for the Audre Lorde Collection at Spelman College. Banks is a graduate of Spelman College where she received a B.A. in history and has a Masters in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in archival management, from Atlanta University.



Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award (1965-2001)

Jerrald Lynn Boswell was a passionate pianist, composer, vocalist, and poet. He was an alumnus of the University of Alabama-Birmingham(UAB) Honors Program where he later taught and edited Honors Program publications. In 2003, UAB expressed appreciation for Jerrald's life and work by establishing the Jerrald Boswell Endowed Support Fund. This Audre Lorde Scholarship is being funded by **Collette Strother, Ada Long, Laura Brooks** and **K.M. Griffin.**



Collette Strother is a 2000 ZAMI scholarship recipient. She received her PhD in gerontology from the University of Kentucky and currently works at the University of Alabama at Birmingham as the project manager on a grant examining health disparities in diabetes and colorectal cancer prevention and management. She was a personal friend of Jerrald Boswell who she says taught her the meaning of loving unconditionally, loving family, and facing life with laughter.

K.M. Griffin is a native of Louisiana, and graduate of Louisiana State University. She has worked over 15 years in the energy and utility industries, where she currently serves as a manager in the area of Legal and Regulatory Compliance. Griffin makes her home in a suburb of Atlanta where she is an advocate for the elderly and works tirelessly on HIV/AIDS issues.

Laura Brooks attended Western Illinois University and has spent the majority of her career in corporate administration. Laura is a self-professed activist for racial justice in her workplace. She was an important player in instituting a Black History Month celebration at the branch of her present company. Laura currently resides in Roanoke, Virginia, and describes herself as a SOUL (Slightly Older Unique Lesbian) with a wickedly good sense of humor.

2007 Donors continued inside

The 2007 Audre Lorde Scholarship Donors

Tony Daniels Community Ally Award
Anthony C. Daniels (1965 – 1998), was one of Atlanta's most powerful organizers and activists. Daniels was a founder of In The Life Atlanta, Inc., of ADODI Muse, Inc., and of the Black Lesbian & Gay Poets Society. This scholarship is funded by ADODI Muse, Inc: A Gay Negro Ensemble, the black gay male performance poets' collective. Muse members, **Duncan E. Teague, Malik M.L. Williams** and **Anthony Antoine** specifically recognize Daniels' work to build bridges across diverse communities.

Wendy Belkin was born in Cleveland, Ohio. She took her last accounting final in August, 1979, got in her car, and drove to Atlanta. She has been here ever since. Belkin practices law and accounting in her own small practice in Decatur and has been a long supporter of Charis Books, Charis Circle and ZAMI. She is an amateur astronomer and photographer.

Linda Bryant, co-founder of Charis Books and Charis Circle, has been lovingly involved with ZAMI since its inception. Her formal education is in English from the University of Florida and in theology from the Candler School of Theology at Emory, but her life lessons come from her years of daily engagement with the wonderfully diverse and committed community she meets at Charis, from her long-term love with Wendy Belkin, and from being a parent and now grandparent. Bryant's desire to serve Spirit with integrity and grace is at the heart of her life.

Sheryl Burke is a Personal Injury Attorney who operates her own law practices based in Georgia and California. Burke, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a graduate of St. Louis University Law School and is a member of the National and Georgia Trial Lawyers' Associations.

Cherie Caldwell is Managing Director, Human Resources at Delta Air Lines, Inc. Caldwell has global responsibility for Talent Acquisition, Retention and Diversity for the fastest growing international passenger airline carrier. She is accountable for building global strategies and implementing programs to optimize the hiring and retention of critical and diverse talent. Caldwell graduated with honors from the University of Maryland where she majored in Human Resources Management. She currently holds a professional SPHR certification and lives in Atlanta.

Sarah Crymes and Rhonda Freeman
Sarah Crymes is a business woman specializing in healthcare administration (MBA/MHSA from University of Michigan). Her passion is building lesbian and feminist communities in Atlanta. She is currently serving as board chair for Charis Circle and previously served as board chair for Fourth Tuesday. **Rhonda Freeman, Ph.D.,** is an engineer who loves all things related to math and science. She also loves her home state of Florida, poodles, swimming and her family. She has been known to have an obsession with puzzles.

Fourth Tuesday is a diverse, non-profit organization serving the LGBT community in Atlanta and the Southeast. It has been dedicated to providing a safe, caring, and welcoming environment for business networking and social events for over 20 years.

Angelina Huguely is a native of Kentucky and graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. She is an occupational therapist and has practiced in settings ranging from pediatric to geriatric populations. In addition to being a health care professional, Huguely has been a saxophonist since elementary school. She enjoys all music genres, but receives greatest satisfaction while performing gospel. Huguely resides in Richmond, Ky.

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The 2007 Audre Lorde Scholars

Amber Andersen, recipient of the Rhonda Freeman-Sarah Crymes Award is in her final year as a communications major at St. Vincent's University in Austin, Texas. Through her work with a gay and lesbian nonprofit seeking to change the perception that Americans are inherently homophobic with a t-shirt campaign, Andersen helped to inform 80 schools last semester about the Fine By Me T-Shirt Project. She's written two unpublished research papers, "The Black Church's Changing Attitudes Towards LGBT People: A Culture of Homophobia" and "Who Do I Have To Blow To Get Some Pussy Around Here?: Sexual Incompatibility in Kissing Jessica Stein". Andersen opted not to major in journalism when she realized she could not be a journalist and openly support gay and lesbian rights. "I could never quench my opinions about gay rights. I could never hide my sexuality to maintain journalistic impartiality. I'm too idealistic and too outspoken about my beliefs."

June Berry, recipient of the Sheryl Burke Award, enrolled in the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts in New York to become a Chef. Her goal is to develop and implement a mobile cooking program for nursing homes and senior centers to provide instruction about the proper foods to eat for prevention and/or the onset of diseases. She also wants to build linkages with doctors, hospitals and clinics to provide education about diet and menu planning to individuals dealing with diseases such as high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes and HIV/ AIDS. Berry says, "My success does not need to be measured by large numbers of people but by those closest to me. My mother and grandmother both lost their battles to cancer and my success at sharing knowledge of healthy eating will be reflected in the meals at my family gatherings as well as the ways my family support those members who are ill or diagnosed with diseases."

Sophia Bowens, the recipient of the Brenda Banks-Kerrie Cotten Williams Award is in a hurry to change the world. At 22 years of age, Bowens has been "out" and fighting injustice since she was fourteen years old. "I created the GLSA(Gay Lesbian Straight Alliance) in high school because I witnessed so many hurtful stereotypes, misconceptions and prejudices, and I wanted to build a bridge to bring people together." Her actions led to a revision in the school's code of conduct prohibiting discrimination based on sex, race, or sexual orientation. As a junior at Texas Woman's University, Bowen is preparing for a career as a school psychologist because she knows firsthand that many youth reared in violent and traumatic homes often suffer low self- esteem, and a lack of determination. "I want my life to be an example of achievement; I'm the first to overcome poverty in my family, the first to finish high school and will become the first college graduate."

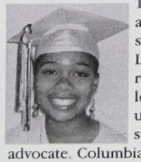
Ejeris Dixon, recipient of the Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award is in her second year of a Masters program at New York University focusing on Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy. For the last eight years Dixon has been involved with social and economic justice activism and organizing around LGBTQ people of color issues. "Being out to me is about forging solidarity within LGBTQ communities of color across different gender expressions, levels of public expression (i.e. outness), race, age, and class. It's about no longer rationalizing violence away but finding ways to support each other without fear, blame, or shame. Avoiding this work has devastating consequences. Every single time we choose to believe that those who were killed were too blatant, and too flamboyant we voluntarily step further and further away from our own liberation."

As a self-identified lifelong student of learning, **Melissa Gordon**, recipient of the Fourth Tuesday Award entered graduate school this fall at the University of Tennessee College of Social Work. Her primary goal is to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker focusing on youth development. Gordon maintains that many therapists are still attempting to re-program gay youth and failing to address the needs of adolescent African Americans. She says her drive to create a residential facility for gay youth in state custody is fueled by the insensitivity she received from professionals as an adolescent battling homophobia and suicidal ideation. While working in diverse communities whether tutoring youth, registering voters, counseling battered women, conducting grassroots fundraising, facilitating groups, or providing financial assistance to the uninsured and underinsured, Gordon says, "I am out despite homophobia in America. I am out despite the African American tradition of suppressing homosexuality under black consciousness. I do not and will not choose one identity. At 27, I have journeyed too far to be uncomfortable in my own skin to be closeted. Being out is not a choice; it is a necessity to live a healthy, honest, and open life."

Crystal A. Jones, a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts in Boston is the recipient of the Cherie Caldwell Award. Jones who will receive her MBA in 2008 is specializing in human resource management and information systems. Growing up in a very religious, Southern Baptist family in Georgia, she learned early on that education would be the prize of her ticket. She knew well before her teens that she was lesbian, but chose to stay in the closet while succeeding academically and climbing up the ladder at several Fortune 500 companies. And although Jones was reaching some professional and educational goals she had set for herself, she was not very happy hiding who she was. "As time passed and I became more confident in myself, I felt compelled to live freely. Being "out" now is a very important aspect of my life. People from all walks of my life, family, church members, co-workers, teachers, and fellow students now know that I am gay." Jones is involved with QUEER Women of Color and Friends and the Mautner Health Project which is a support organization for lesbians with cancer. Her goal is to become a successful business professor and entrepreneur enabling her to give back some of the abundance that has been given to her.

Kalvin Leveille, a recipient of the Sandra Jones-Ronald Moore Award is a senior studying Communication Arts at St. John's University in Queens, NY. While not in school, he spends many hours conducting outreach throughout New York City targeting teens at risk by distributing condoms and facilitating health workshops. Leveille is involved with Manhattan's Pridefest and is also a member of HEAT (Health Education & Alternatives for Teens) Program's Youth Advisory Board serving as a representative for gay young men throughout the program. He exclaims that working with the staff at HEAT taught him a new found love for himself. "I tried to substitute the love I never received from my father with the affection I perceived as love, from a boyfriend. I do not want a relationship to define my love for myself. I want to define the strength of the relationships in my life through positive self love and what I can offer"

Naima Lowe is the recipient of the Margaret Ntombi Howell Power & Presence Memorial Award funded by Rhesa M. Jenkins & Ama Saran. She is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree at Temple University in Philadelphia with a focus on Film and Media Arts. Lowe who comes from a long line of professors, musicians, elementary school teachers, painters, actors and Sunday school teachers loves teaching, and making art. She is a writing instructor for PHAT CAMP, a Youth Empowerment Organization focused on body image, anti-racism, anti-sexism and anti-homophobia and serves as Curator for BEYOND BEYOND, Arts Programming for the National LGBTI Health Summit. Lowe credits the support of LGBT and feminist writers for giving her the confidence needed as an artist. She is currently working on a multi-media installation about a 19th century black cowboy named Stagecoach Mary where she is exploring race, gender, and sexuality. "Being out not only to my family, but to the community at large, has given me artistic opportunities and a sense of voice beyond what I could have had by trying to hide that aspect of my identity."

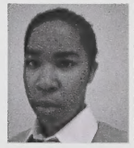


Teanna Medina, the recipient of the Linda Bryant Award attends the University of Missouri- Columbia where she is a sophomore English major. John Faughn, Coordinator of the LGBT Resource Center at the University writes in his recommendation letter, " Ms. Medina is a true emerging leader within the LGBT community. She seeks first to understand, then to be understood. She reaches out to students, is a mentor to her peers, and is a true social justice advocate. Columbia Missouri is not an easy campus for a student to identify as a member of the LGBT community, much more as a woman of color who identifies as a member of the LGBT community.´" Medina has created bulletin boards on Transgender, Latino/a and African- Americans who identify as LGBT and facilitated InsideOut, a weekly LGBT discussion group. She has also been active in programming for Pride Month, Pride Prom and panel discussions. Medina asserts, "I have been out since the age of fourteen and I am proud of my identity whether anyone else accepts it or not."

Mark Norris is the recipient of the Jerrald Lynn Boswell Memorial Award funded by Collette Strother, Laura Brooks, Ada Long and K.M. Griffin. A sophomore at California State University in Los Angeles, Norris is pursuing a Social Work degree with a Gerontology specialization. He has a long list of awards for his community work and currently volunteers his services for Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Center as a Case Manager Assistant, helped to establish MYTE (Mentoring Youth through Empowerment Program), is a Program Assistant with APT-AIDS Prevention Team, volunteer hours with the Mary McCloud Bethune School for Homeless Children and works the phones for Gay AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) Help Line. Norris is eager to obtain his degree so that he can develop programming for two groups that are dear to his heart: gay seniors and troubled youth who are homeless and caught up in a web of addiction. "Being out is important because every young lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender kid growing up should have someone positive in our community to pattern their life after and identify with. I truly believe I am here to help someone who has gone through some or all of the same things I have gone through. That is my sole desire."

Pam Reed, the recipient of the Angelina Huguely Award, is a junior at the University of Illinois majoring in liberal arts and women studies. In addition to her work as co-founder and active member of Spectrum, an LGBT organization and the Feminist group, Reclaiming Eve, Reed and her partner of ten years are also raising a teenage daughter. "I'm teaching my daughter not to accept unequal treatment from anyone. Being 'out' and being honest about who I am everywhere I go is the best lesson for my daughter." She hopes to use her education to teach in a University setting as a Professor in Gay and Lesbian Studies. Reed believes she can make a difference in the lives of gay and lesbian youth. "Working within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community will allow me the opportunity to educate and be a mentor to those in need."

Charles Rice-Gonzalez, recipient of the Tony Daniels Community Ally Award funded by ADODI Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble is working toward a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing with a concentration in fiction at Goddard College in Vermont. Since 1986, he has actively created supportive environments for queerness in the Bronx by helping to found Queer Men of the Bronx, and BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, a 70 seat performance space that presents empowering works for/by women, people of color and the LGBT community, finished a coming out novel, had a workshop production of his play that deals with race and desire and will soon have his first short story published in a Puerto Rican anthology. Rice-Gonzalez says, "Being gay to me is not only about subverting from the norm, it is also about expansion from the norm. My gayness is integrated into what I do, what I create and what I want to keep doing throughout my life. I want to continue giving to the development and empowerment of a strong gay community that is part of the larger world."



Brandee Stephens, recipient of the Wendy Belkin Award, is a senior Sociology major and Psychology minor at the University of North Carolina- Charlotte. "Kool-Aid" as she is affectionately known on campus is an active member of UNC Charlotte's P.R.I.D.E (People Recognizing Individual Differences and Equality) organization whose purpose is to provide education and awareness about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. She also works as a SAFE Counselor providing mentoring to incoming freshman and received the 2005-2006 awards for SAFE Counselor of the year. Stephens says that embracing her sexual orientation has been a struggle but it has impacted her life in a very positive way. She quotes Barack Obama "Making your mark on the world is hard. If it were easy, everybody would do it. But it's not. It takes patience, it takes commitment, and it comes with plenty of failure along the way. The real test is not whether you avoid this failure, because you won't. It's whether you let it harden or shame you into inaction, or whether you learn from it; whether you choose to persevere."

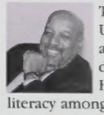
Craig Washington, the recipient of the David Gillespie Award, will receive his Master of Social Work from Georgia State University in 2008. While continuing to work full-time as a volunteer and training coordinator at Positive Impact, an agency providing mental health and prevention services for people affected by HIV, he remains involved in many social justice activities, too numerous to mention. Washington says "It is my goal to help establish a series of cultural arts community centers in the South that primarily serve Black queer communities. I would like to work with activists, performing artists, health providers, community leaders and elected officials to build and sustain centers for the empowerment of Black lgbtqiq people and our allies. These centers would provide services and activities such as training on job skills, film, literature and performance art programs; conflict resolution for organizations; leadership development; youth support; as well as recreational activities for various generations. Our communities suffer sorely from disconnection, isolation and the cumulative effects of unhealed internalized oppressions. As a social worker and a writer I will help develop services and create art that addresses our needs in some ways both innovative and traditional."

2007 Donors continued

Ada Long is an emeritus professor of English and, from 1983 to 2004, was founding director of the university-wide honors program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her finest creation was the UAB Honors Program, which proved that students from all backgrounds, ages, races, interests, politics, and religions can learn, teach, and thrive together. In July of 2004, she retired to an island off the Florida panhandle, which—except for all the water—is just like Alabama.

Mandy Carter Social Justice Organizing Award
Mandy Carter, a self-described southern out black lesbian social justice activist, has worked in multi-racial, multi-issue grassroots organizing for the last 39 years. In 1993, she co-founded Southerners On New Ground whose purpose is to build a progressive movement across the South by developing transformative models of organizing that connect race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality identity. Carter was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee as part of the "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" to recognize, make visible and celebrate the impressive and valuable, yet often invisible peace work of thousands of women around the world. She lives in Durham, North Carolina. This award is funded by **Germaine Curtin**, owner of Germaine Curtin & Associates, Attorneys at Law—a practice limited to business matters. She is admitted to practice before the New York, California, North Carolina and Georgia Bars. Ms. Curtin received her B.A. degree from the State University of New York at Albany and her J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University. She currently resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Sandra Jones & Ronald Moore



Sandra B. Jones, Ph.D. is from Houston, Texas. Her professional career has been national and international. She provided clinical practice in pediatrics at Ben Taub Hospital in Houston, Texas; academic teaching at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; research at the Colorado Sickle Cell Research and Treatment Center; and international work in Japan and Kuwait University. She is currently at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention managing cooperative agreements with departments of education at the state and local level implementing HIV/AIDS prevention programs in schools. Her passion is health literacy among children and adolescents. **Ronald Moore** recently retired from Hewlett Packard after 26 years in a myriad of roles focused mostly in human resources. He presently works with the Kimberly-Clark Company as its Diversity and Inclusion Director. Moore has been involved in various Metro Atlanta organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Medical Center, and Project Open Hand (serving meals to people living with HIV / critical illnesses). A native of Detroit, Michigan, Ronald received a B.A. - Communications, an M.A. - Counseling, and a M.A. - Labor and Industrial Relations—all from Michigan State University. He resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Congratulations to our Community Award recipients: Mia Mingus, Rev. Maressa Pendermon, Mandy Carter and the Feminist Women's Health Center.

ZAMI Mission Statement

ZAMI's primary mission is to empower and affirm the lives of lesbians of African descent through providing scholarship funds, leadership development, support/discussion groups, social activities, outreach and education.

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund

The scholarship fund is the brainchild of ZAMI's current Board Chair, Mary Anne Adams. The first two scholarships were awarded in 1997 to Wendi O'Neal from Spelman College and Akeya Works from Georgia State University.

Since that time, we have awarded over $114,000 in scholarship money to "out" lesbians and gay men of color, nation–wide who are making significant contributions to their communities.

ZAMI Board Members

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Members:

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Saralynn Chestnut
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Much love and appreciation to our featured Artists:
Dr. Clarice Thompson, Drum Sista, Lillie Huddleston, ADODI Muse

Producer, Mary Anne Adams of Madam Productions

Visit www.zami.org for more information on our scholars, donors, and upcoming events.